

Lady Death



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HUGHES
96
SENSEN

LADY DEATH[®] FAN EDITION[™] #1 ALL HALLOW'S EVIL



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OCTOBER 31, 1496 A.D.

AS THE SUN SETS AND ALL HALLOW'S EVE APPROACHES, THE VILLAGERS OF MANDUYALL, WHO CALL THIS LAND THEIRS, GATHER OUT OF SHEER DESPERATION.

TO PLACATE THE MERCURIAL SUPERNATURAL SPIRITS WHO CONTROL THE PROCESS OF NATURE, THEY PREPARE TO ENACT THE ANCIENT PAGAN RITUAL OF SAMHAIN.

DOES HE HAVE THE SEEDS?

HE DOES.

THIS COULD BE OUR LAST CHANCE.

DON'T KNOW IT!

A YEAR AGO, THESE LANDS TEEMED WITH THE BRIGHT EXUBERANCE OF LIFE. NOW THE STARK PANORAMA REVEALS A DEPLORABLE, DESOLATE WASTELAND.

IT'S UNCHRISTIAN, FATHER ORBEC! THEY BEHAVE LIKE PAGANS, PRAYING TO SPIRITS!

CALM YOURSELF, FATHER HERMAN. WE'VE ONLY RECENTLY WON THEM OVER TO THE CHRISTIAN WAY. BE PATIENT.

THEY'RE FEARFUL. THE LAND'S BARREN. THEY BELIEVE THE VEIL THAT SEPARATES THE LIVING AND THE DEAD IS AT ITS THINNEST AND IS PRIME FOR INVOCATION.

THEY MEAN TO CONTACT THE DEATH GODDESS AND BEG FORGIVENESS.

WE'RE CONDEMNED, I TELL YOU. SINCE WE KILLED MATTHIAS, AND BURNED HIS DAUGHTER, HOPE, NOTHING GROWS.

THE WINTER COMES. WE'LL BE STARVING!

MATTHIAS MAY HAVE BEEN A SADIST BUT WE NEVER WENT HUNGRY!

PLEASE! REMEMBER THE VOW! WE CANNOT KILL EVER AGAIN!

BLESSED GODDESS, I CALL UPON YOUR MIGHTY SPIRIT TO COME INTO MY CIRCLE NOW. INFUSE IT WITH YOUR MANY BLESSINGS. COME UNITE WITH ME!

I OFFER THIS SEED TO APPEASE YOU!

A FIERY TORTURE
CHAMBER IN HELL...

I CANNOT
GIVE YOU WHAT YOU
WANT, MILADY!

WHEN I RENOUNCED
MY HUMANITY, YOU BROUGHT
ME TO HELL! I COMMAND YOU TO
SEND ME BACK TO EARTH!

YOU ARE
CURSED BY LUCIFER
HIMSELF NEVER TO
RETURN!

YOU DARE
REFUSE ME?

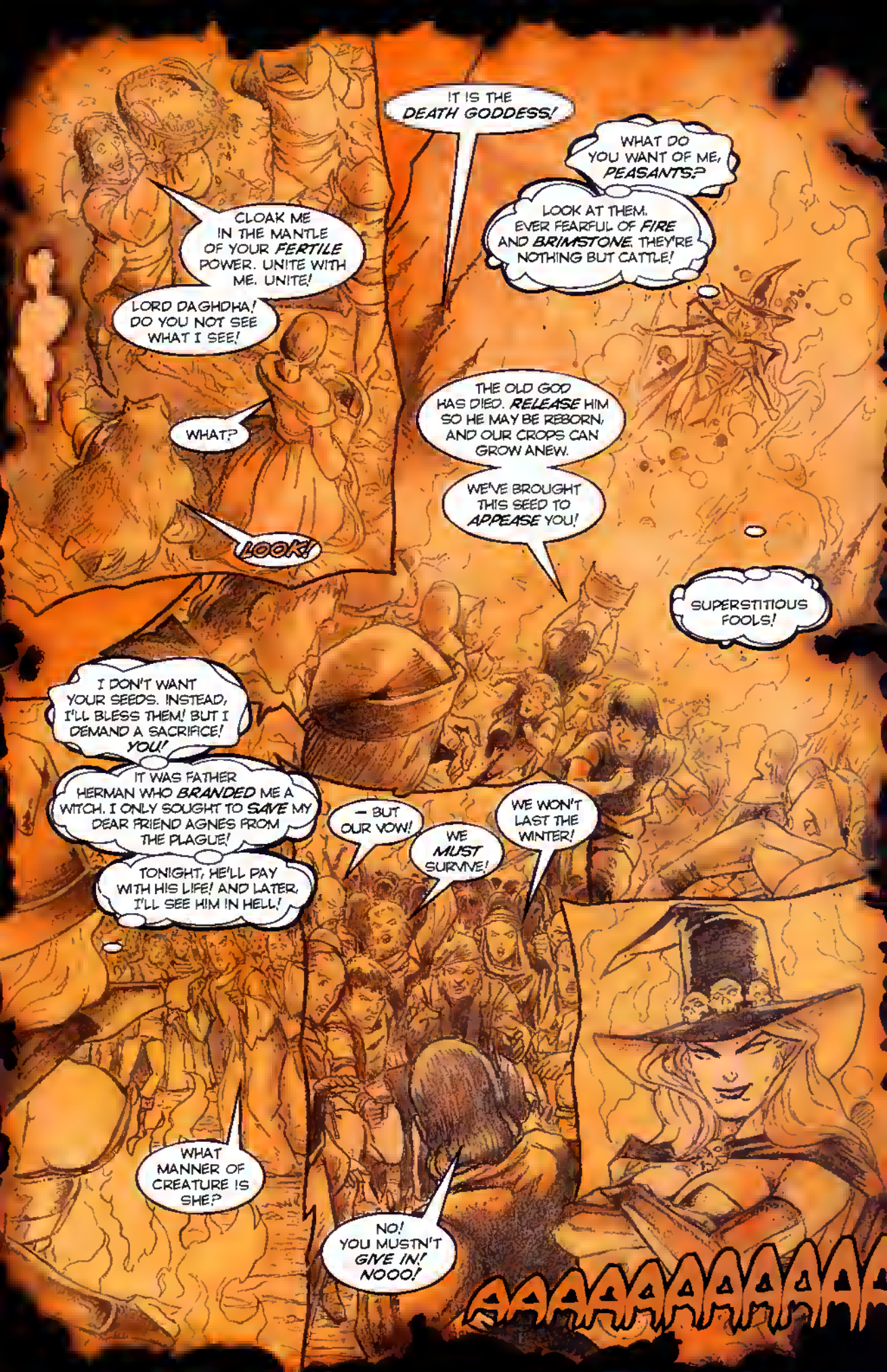
I SAW INTO
MY ETERNITY WELL!
THE VILLAGERS WHO STOLE
MY LIFE ARE PREPARING
A CEREMONY!

I MUST
BE THERE!!! I
MUST REPAY
THEM!

WHAK

MILADY,
THERE MAY BE
A WAY, BUT ONLY
YOUR SPIRIT FORM
AND ONLY FOR A SCANT
FEW SECONDS!

A FEW
SECONDS IS
ALL I NEED,
DEMON!



IT IS THE
DEATH GODDESS!

WHAT DO
YOU WANT OF ME,
PEASANTS?

LOOK AT THEM.
EVER FEARFUL OF FIRE
AND BRIMSTONE. THEY'RE
NOTHING BUT CATTLE!

CLOAK ME
IN THE MANTLE
OF YOUR FERTILE
POWER. UNITE WITH
ME. UNITE!

LORD DAGHDHA!
DO YOU NOT SEE
WHAT I SEE!

WHAT?

LOOK!

THE OLD GOD
HAS DIED. RELEASE HIM
SO HE MAY BE REBORN,
AND OUR CROPS CAN
GROW ANEW.

WE'VE BROUGHT
THIS SEED TO
APPEASE YOU!

SUPERSTITIOUS
FOOLS!

I DON'T WANT
YOUR SEEDS. INSTEAD,
I'LL BLESS THEM! BUT I
DEMAND A SACRIFICE!
YOU!

IT WAS FATHER
HERMAN WHO **BRANDED** ME A
WITCH. I ONLY SOUGHT TO **SAVE** MY
DEAR FRIEND AGNES FROM
THE PLAGUE!

TONIGHT, HE'LL PAY
WITH HIS LIFE! AND LATER,
I'LL SEE HIM IN HELL!

— BUT
OUR VOW!


WE
MUST
SURVIVE!

WE WON'T
LAST THE
WINTER!


WHAT
MANNER OF
CREATURE IS
SHE?

NO!
YOU MUSTN'T
GIVE IN!
NOOO!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

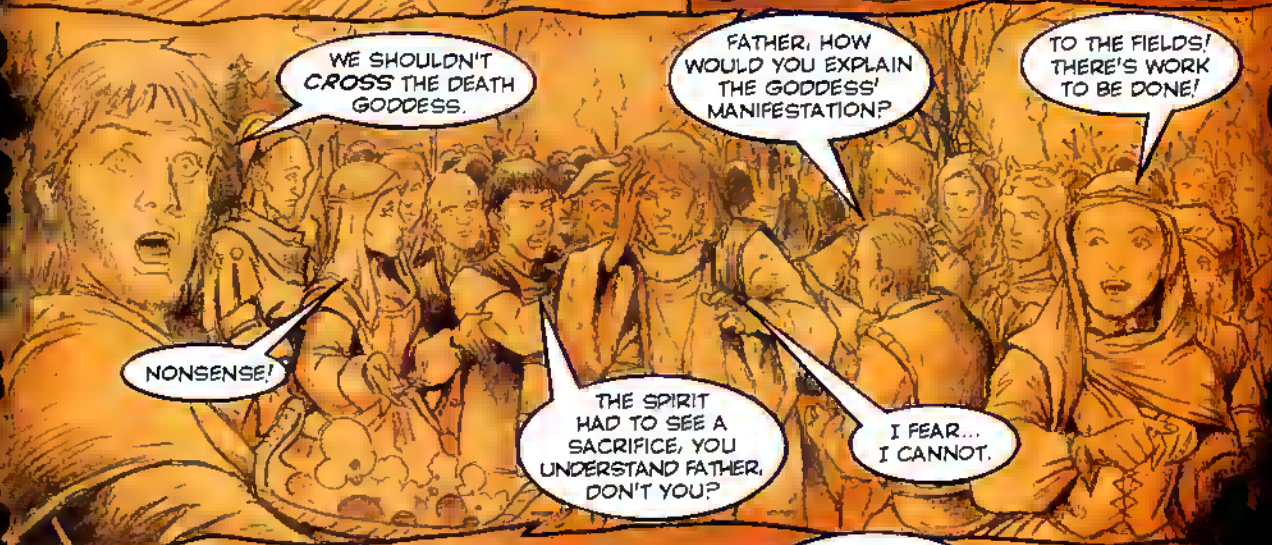


PLANT THE SEEDS TONIGHT AND IN THE MORNING-- YOU'RE ALL INVITED TO A SPECIAL HARVEST!



THE DEATH GODDESS, SHE'S GONE! LET HIM UP, YOU HEAR?

LET FATHER HERMAN UP!



WE SHOULDN'T CROSS THE DEATH GODDESS.

FATHER, HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE GODDESS' MANIFESTATION?

TO THE FIELDS! THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE!

NONSENSE!

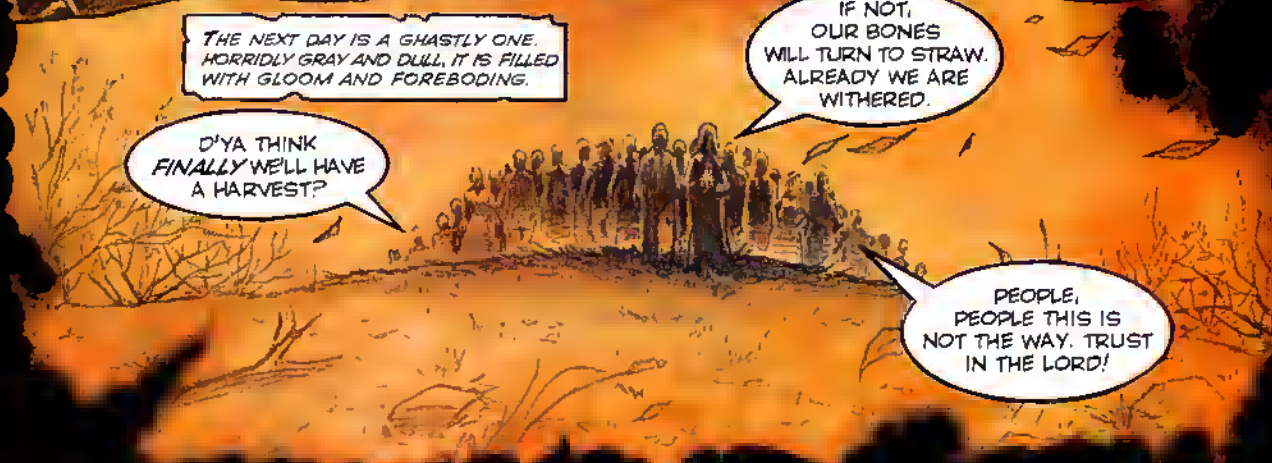
THE SPIRIT HAD TO SEE A SACRIFICE, YOU UNDERSTAND FATHER, DON'T YOU?

I FEAR... I CANNOT.


THE NEXT DAY IS A GHASTLY ONE. HORRIDLY GRAY AND DULL, IT IS FILLED WITH GLOOM AND FOREBODING.

D'YA THINK FINALLY WE'LL HAVE A HARVEST?

IF NOT, OUR BONES WILL TURN TO STRAW. ALREADY WE ARE WITHERED.



PEOPLE, PEOPLE THIS IS NOT THE WAY. TRUST IN THE LORD!



WHAT DO
YOU SAY TO
THAT, FATHER
HERMAN?



IT'S AN
ILLUSION!

IT MUST
BE!



SAVED!


WE'RE
SAVED!

THEIR STOMACHS EMPTY, THE
VILLAGERS DON'T TAKE CARE TO
NOTICE THE PUMPKIN'S UNUSUAL
MARKINGS.



WHAT'S
THIS?

OUT OF THE GROUND THEY
COME. COUNTLESS KILLER
PUMPKINS.



RISE,
MY BROTHERS!
RISE!

IT HAS
A FACE!


AN EVIL FACE!

THE LORD IS
MY SHEPHERD,
I SHALL NOT--

--AGAY



SPLAT



THEY ARRIVED
EXPECTING BOUNTY!

OH, I INVITED
THEM TO A *HARVEST*
ALL RIGHT!

AND IT LOOKS
LIKE *THEY*
GOT PICKED!

HA HA HA HA!

YOUR CRUELTY
IS ONLY MATCHED BY
YOUR INGENUITY.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN
LADY DEATH. HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!

AAAAA

NOOOOOO!

TALE
CEE

GER-ACK!



"WHERE DARKNESS DWELLS"

by Todd "serial killer" Hoffer

To commemorate this fantastic *Lady Death FAN Edition*, we at *FAN* thought who better to talk to than the head ghoul of Chaos! Comics, Brian Pulido. Brian talks of his upcoming projects his plan for world domination and mostly of his undying gratitude for Chaos! fans. So join us as we journey through the Chaotic underworld of Brian Pulido.

FAN-What makes Chaos! Comics so popular?

Brian Pulido-That's always a tough question to answer because I'm the publisher. What I hope is that we're giving the readers a dose of something that's very pure, that's from our heart, and they can sense that.

When you started Chaos! Comics, did you ever dream that you would become so successful so fast?

No. Not at all, I was just worried about getting the next book out. To answer your question honestly, no, I'd never have guessed this. It's fantastic. I'm living a dream. It's phenomenal. But I'm awake. It's wild. When it started, especially with *Lady Death* #1, back in January of '94, it just exploded right in front of our face, and we were like, "Holy Mackerell!" But then we just caught the reigns of the horse and said, "We're off to the races." And now we're real happy to be contenders, and I love it.

The Chaos! crest. Where did that come from?

That is not particularly unique. Unbeknownst to me, Michael Moorcock developed the first Chaos shield of any kind. And to be real honest with you, I was unaware of that. I got excited about the premise of the Chaos shield after having seen some *War Hammer* games from England. Chaos! comics have been around for a while, but the Chaos shield is almost common law over in England, it's used a lot. So we adopted our own version of it; it comes from a lot of pop cultural influences.

With the success of *Evil Ernie* and *Lady Death*, are you going to do something more light-hearted—not that *Evil Ernie* isn't light-hearted....

Well, I think people have come to expect the darker side of things from Chaos! comics. There have been times when we tried things out of that category, and we've had certain degrees of success. Right now we have a science fiction series running

called *Rock and Pain*, and although the initial orders from retailers weren't large, it seems to have been embraced by our readers. Steven Hughes and I are also committed to a creation we called *Detonator*. *Detonator* is a look at the cause and effects of people with power, and their effects on the world. Next year you'll see us making comic books that are scary, but for kids. I think, by and large, I'm pretty happy with where the company's at. We are "Where Darkness Dwells". Between scary stories and stories of Armageddon, I am perfectly happy to tell those tales the rest of my life.

Is Chaos! comics planning crossovers with any other companies?

We have absolutely no plans in the immediate future to do crossovers. We looked at this phenomenon of people doing all these crossovers, and we figured the best way for us to be unique and to continue to build our own mythology was just to stay out of it. There are some crossovers that I think could be fun, but there are no plans whatsoever on the horizon. We've gotten a lot of feedback from people saying that they're just sick of it and that they see a lot of the crossovers as cash-in moves. I really don't disagree. I think sometimes when companies are in trouble, they do a lot of these crossovers. While there are some that would be fun, we genuinely have no plans whatsoever.

With the popularity of toys growing within our marketplace, are we going to have *Lady Death* or *Evil Ernie* action figures anytime soon?

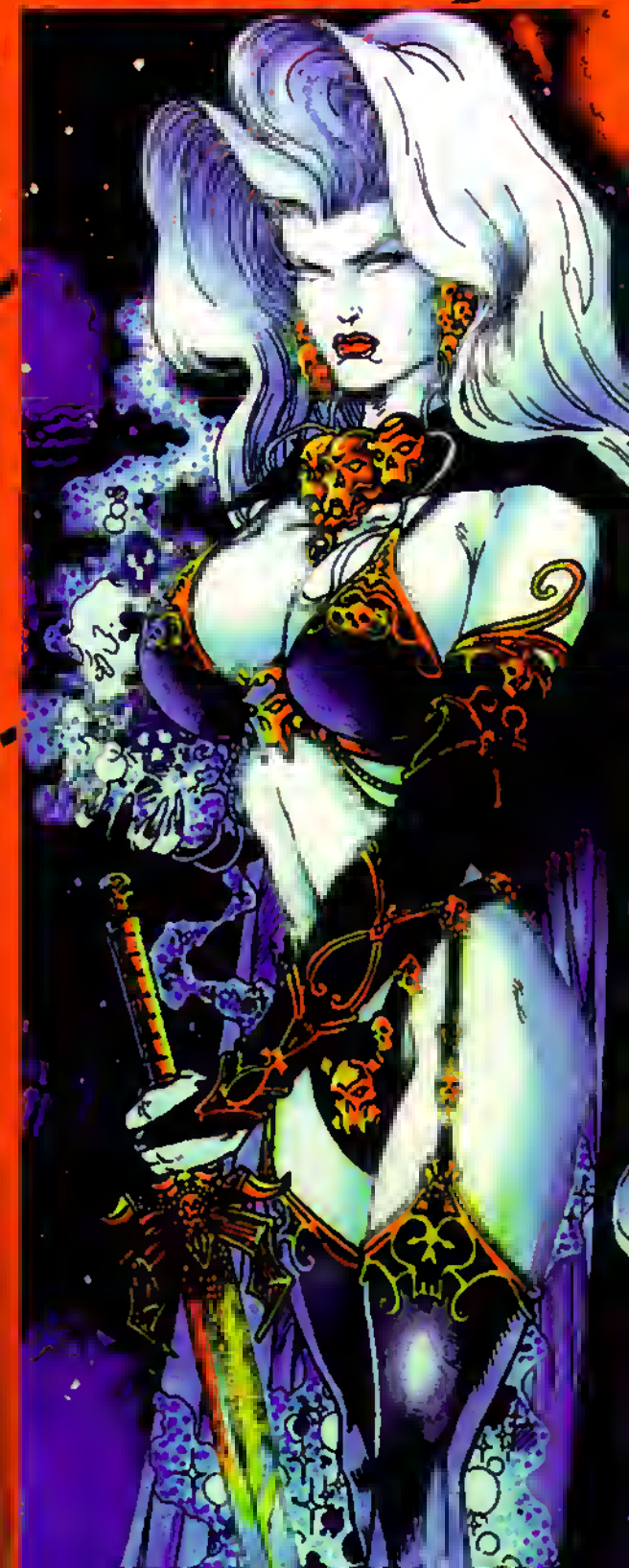
There is absolutely nothing I can tell you, but if I were you, I would stay tuned. I am not the kind of person to hype things up, but stay tuned. Keep your eyes peeled to *FAN* to find out.

Are there any more trading card projects in the works for Chaos!?

Yes. Over the next calendar year, we have plans to produce three separate card sets. They're all in production now. A brand new *Evil Ernie* set will come out in the Spring and a set called the *Cast of Chaos!* will come out in the Summer. There will also be a very special Halloween project coming out as well. We have a lot of tremendously talented artists working on these projects.

Have you given any thought to producing a collectible card game for *Lady Death* or *Evil Ernie*?

One of the messages we like to convey to our readers is that there's a lot more to the Chaos! cosmos than *Ernie* and *Lady Death*. Though they are in the forefront right now, we have a lot of active characters that are very alive and





well. Although all of them don't have a comic book series, a lot of them are very fleshed out and operate in and out of all the series. That's something we're incredibly interested in because I really like all that stuff a lot. I wanted our mythology to be fleshed out, but I didn't really want to force it, I want it to grow out organically. I could see going into development on things like that within the next calendar year. I just love that stuff.

Tell me about the Chaos! Halloween party.

In my personal life and now since Chaos! has started, I've always had Halloween parties. And now that Chaos! is "Where Darkness Dwells", we've had parties for the last two years. We had some wonderful people show up at last year's party, and keep in mind, we're in the middle of the American Southwest here in Phoenix, Arizona. What made this year very, very exciting is that we opened up our party to our fan club, which is considerable. And the party was a blast. Costumes were required or your head was severed at the door. We invited industry professionals if they were interested in coming out. We held our first annual theme awards, and we had a lot of exciting categories. One of them was Best Tattoo of a Chaos! Character. And this year we had well over 50 tattoos. We had a Customized Vehicles category. And we had seven or eight amazing submissions there. We had Letter Hacker of the year, Poem of the Year, because folks do write us poems, and Custom Made Action figure of the year. That's just to name a few of the categories. I think I can go on record as saying, Chaos!, in terms of our customer service, we celebrate our readers perhaps more than any other comic company. And when people start seeing the depth, I wouldn't be surprised if they start copying that from us too, as they copy a lot of other things. We believe our readers are more dedicated than others, in that there would be no Chaos! without our readers,

very simply. So this is our way of recognizing individual achievements by our readers, things that they have done for us. We also had a costume contest and our house band, Doomsday, played. In addition to that, all kinds of madness and insanity occurred. If you're asking me if it's my dream to have these parties—unequivocally, yes. It's to celebrate All Hallows Eve, and it's a very wonderful, heartwarming thing.

Have you given any consideration to being an outlet for a small press guy who's just getting started?

You know, Chaos! has this identity as Where Darkness Dwells. I'm not considering anything like that, regardless of what you may have heard. The only books I could possibly consider would be books that come from that category, that come from very responsible creators. I'll give you an example: I think the finest comic book on the stands right now is *Johnny the Homicidal Maniac*. I think it's the finest comic. And I get the sense that the artist and his publisher are getting along merrily. One thing I won't do is go step on people's toes and steal away talent or anything. That's terrible. You know, the door is open if the guy from *Johnny* ever wants me to publish his book, I would love to, I would almost consider it an honor. I think the book's tremendous. But we're not looking to beef up our look by absorbing other entities.

Chaos! is the cosmos unto itself and, live or die, sink or swim, I am the pirate captain of the ship, and if it sinks, I will sink with it. I will continue to ride it and let it float effortlessly over the ocean as it is now.

